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supplying the tissue at the back of the ear. A similar case has been reported to me on excellent authority, and is corroborated fully by the sufferer himself, of a rash being invariably developed in a boy after eating oatmeal, but in this instance it was unaccompanied by any alarming symptoms. A somewhat different case of idiosyncrasy is recorded in *The Lancet* (February 28, 1888, p. 394), in which a negro woman in Barbadoes experienced the most alarming symptoms after an ordinary dose of cocaine.

THEO. D. A. COCKRELL.

*West Cliff, Colorado.*

### Botanical expedition to S. America.

As various inquiries are made in regard to the botanical expedition to South America which I am contemplating, I feel at liberty to say a word in this public way about the matter.

The plan is to start at Buenos Ayres, in the Argentine Republic, ascend the Paraguay and Parana rivers as far as possible, and to collect the water and land plants in the surrounding region along the southern boundary of Bolivia and southwestern boundary of Brazil.

Attempts will be made to explore the tributaries of the great water system which empties through the Rio de la Plata into the Atlantic. Subsequently the Argentine Republic will be crossed westerly to the Andes, and a visit made to Chili, with attempts to collect the little known flora of the desert of Atacama.

Of course, these plans are liable to be modified by circumstances, but it is hoped that a large and rare collection of the South American flora of the regions visited may be made and brought home to enrich the herbaria of our country.

If further information as to the disposal of the sets collected is desired, letters may be addressed to the writer up to the 1st of June next, or to Dr. N. L. Britton, of Columbia College, New York.

*Ashland, Mass.*

THOMAS MORONG.

### Report of the U. S. Mycologist for 1887.

Into the portion of this report which concerns California several errors have crept that are to be regretted. All the fungi mentioned as having been observed for the first time in California exist in my herbarium, from numerous localities. *Uromyces Beæ* and *Puccinia prunispinosæ* were collected by me in 1876, and are included in *Cat. of Cal. Fungi*, published as long ago as 1880. *Peronosporia viticola*, an account of which, with some localities, was given in *Bull. Cal. Acad.*, No. 7, June, 1887, abounds in California on our wild vine, *Vitis Californica*, and the denial of its existence by the U. S. mycologist will be productive of very mischievous results if it prevents our vine growers from taking measures to protect themselves from this dreaded pest already in our midst.

*San Francisco.*

H. W. HARKNESS.

### To the members of the Botanical Club of the A. A. A. S.

Your committee, appointed in August last, to devise a method for the exchange of specimens among American botanists, have, after consultations with other botanists, decided that the most practical method is through the herbarium of the Department of Agriculture at Washington.